the resolution at which the images were scanned, the hardware/software used to produce the object, compression information, pixel dimensions, etc. For more information about NC ECHO's preservation metadata standards, see **Preservation Metadata for Digital Objects** (http://www.ncecho.org/presmet/index.htm).

Recognizing that today's users are accessing digital resources from their home, work, school, etc., at any time of the day, and often without the assistance of a librarian, archivist, curator, museum educator, or other cultural heritage professional, metadata needs to provide information that:

- certifies the authenticity and degree of completeness of the content;
- establishes and documents the context of the content;
- identifies and exploits the structural relationships that exist between and within information objects;
- provides a range of intellectual access points for an increasingly diverse range of users;
- provides some of the data that an information professional might have provided in a physical reference or research setting.

What is Dublin Core and why use it?

The Dublin Core metadata standard is a set of elements used to describe a variety of networked resources. The semantics of these elements have been established through consensus by an international, cross-disciplinary group of professionals from the library, museum, publishing, computer science, and text encoding communities, as well as from other related fields of scholarship. The Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) Element Set has been approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and assigned the number Z39.85.

The Dublin Core metadata standard embodies the following characteristics:

- *Simplicity of creation and maintenance*
  The intention of the Dublin Core element set is to remain as simple and accessible as possible in order to allow a non-specialist to create descriptive records for online resources both easily and efficiently, while providing for optimum retrieval of those resources in an online environment.

- *Commonly understood terminology*
  Dublin Core was developed with the "non-specialist searcher" in mind. By supporting a common set of elements, the semantics of which can be universally understood and supported, resource discovery across different descriptive practices from one field of knowledge to another will increase. By using terminology that is generic yet applicable to a variety of disciplines, the visibility and accessibility of resources across these disciplines is enhanced.

- *International in scope*
  The involvement of representatives from almost every continent in establishing Dublin Core specifications ensures that the standard will address the multicultural and multilingual nature of networked resources.

- *Extensibility*
  Although the Dublin Core element set was developed with simplicity in mind, the need for precise retrieval of resources has also been recognized. As the standard develops, the Dublin Core element set could serve as the core descriptive